

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,228,398,127,636.98. We've added \$8,601,521,078,723.90 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## HONORING LOUISE SMITH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious mother, Mrs. Louise Smith. Mrs. Smith has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to live a productive life.

Louise Smith was born on February 21, 1925 in Laurel, Mississippi.

Mrs. Smith married Samuel Smith on March 10, 1946 and together they had 11 children, 5 boys and 6 girls. They moved to Yazoo City, Mississippi in the 1950s. When the youngest child was enrolled in kindergarten, Mrs. Smith enrolled in beauty school and later received her license to become a hairstylist. She and her good friend, Dorothy Casey, co-owned a beauty salon in downtown Yazoo City which opened in early 1970s and remained open for over 30 years. When you stopped by to get your hair done, you not only received a great hair styling, but you also got many words of wisdom with a little gospel to lift up your spirits until the next time you came.

Mrs. Smith was once a member of Chapel Hill Baptist Church on Brickyard Hill in Yazoo City with her husband and children. There she and several other women met and formed a gospel group known as the Gospel Carolettes. Her husband sang with them as well. The Gospel Carolettes not only sang in church but at various Christian events spreading the news of the gospel. They also sang on the radio station WAZF each Sunday morning.

Mrs. Smith left Chapel Hill Baptist Church with her husband and children to become a member of New Zion Baptist Church where her son, Rev. Willie E. Smith, is the pastor. There she not only served as a Mother of the church, but also works with the Mission women. Mother Smith taught Sunday School and sang in the choir at New Zion.

Mrs. Smith has been a mother and/or grandmother figure to many in the church and in her neighborhood; always welcoming others into her home, which has always displayed an array of beautiful flowers in the yard and many green plants indoors for comfort, decoration and fresh air. Louise enjoys gardening and preparing dinner with vegetables from her garden on Sundays for her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and any other visitors from the community.

Mrs. Smith has pushed to be a role model not only for her children and grandchildren, but to all in her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Louise Smith for her dedication for change and serving her community.

HONORING PATRICIA DERIAN,  
CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Patricia Derian, former State Department human rights chief, who, as the Washington Post reported, "helped save thousands of lives by giving humanitarian concerns greater weight in U.S. foreign policy." Patt, who grew up in Virginia and first gained a national reputation as a fighter for civil rights in Mississippi, died on May 20 at the home she and her husband, Hodding Carter III, shared in Chapel Hill, NC.

Patt graduated from the University of Virginia nursing school in 1952 and moved with her then-husband to Jackson, Mississippi. There she volunteered for Head Start, fought to integrate public schools, and participated in the 1968 challenge to the state's all-white Democratic National Convention delegation. She also served as president of the Southern Regional Council and on the executive committee of the American Civil Liberties Union.

In 1976, Patt took a leadership role in Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. President Carter appointed her State Department coordinator for human rights and humanitarian affairs, a position Congress upgraded to Assistant Secretary. "If you want a magnolia to decorate foreign policy," she told future Secretary of State Warren Christopher, "I'm the wrong person. I expect to get things done."

Patt Derian proved as good as her word, ruffling numerous feathers along the way. She persuaded the President to exert influence over international lending institutions by opposing loans to Argentina, Ethiopia, Laos, Uruguay, and other human rights violators. She helped engineer the release of thousands of political prisoners in Indonesia, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Her reports to Congress shed light on previously ignored subjects such as labor practices, women's rights, and female genital mutilation. Jacobo Timerman, an Argentine journalist imprisoned and tortured over many years, credited Ms. Derian with helping engineer his release and saving "thousands and thousands of lives all over the world."

In 1978, Patt married Hodding Carter, a well-known Mississippi journalist who was then Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. They relocated to Chapel Hill in 2005, where my wife Lisa and I came to treasure their friendship and their continued political and civic leadership, locally and nationally. Hodding was Patt's loving caretaker in her years of declining health and continues in multiple teaching and other leadership roles at the University of North Carolina.

Because of Patt Derian's "determination and effective advocacy," President Carter said upon her death, "countless human rights and democracy activists survived that period, going on to plant the seeds of freedom in Latin

America, Asia, and beyond." She was a great humanitarian who was not afraid to challenge the constraints generally placed on diplomacy and foreign policy. As a result, we now have a broader, morally-grounded view of our country's interests and of what we stand for in the world. That is a legacy of major importance: may we rededicate ourselves to it as we remember Patt Derian with gratitude and affection.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 270, I am not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. KAREN  
RUE'S RETIREMENT**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Karen Rue, Superintendent of Schools at Northwest ISD. Dr. Rue is retiring from this leadership position after over ten years of exemplary public service to its students, faculty and staff.

During her term as superintendent, Dr. Rue skillfully met the challenges of a rapidly growing school district. Dr. Rue guided NISD's transformation from an educational entity serving 8,700 students in a largely rural area to a more suburban district with an expanded enrollment of more than 21,000. She successfully shepherded the passage of three bond elections, with the overwhelming support of the community, to meet this dynamic growth. During this period, academic performance was increased to ensure that graduates would be equipped for success in higher education and prepared to compete in a global workforce. During Dr. Rue's tenure, the district saw the opening of two new high schools, Byron Nelson, and V.R. Eaton. Additionally, she was instrumental in the implementation of community-based accountability, the expansion of specialized NISD academies and the development of the Outdoor Learning Center.

Dr. Rue has been nationally recognized as a leading proponent of the importance of a digital learning environment to equip all students to be "future ready." She was selected to participate in the Connected Superintendents Summit at the White House, was named one of the nation's Top 50 Innovators in Education by the Center for Digital Education and was chosen as a finalist in the eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent Awards program. In addition, she was elected by her peers to serve as president of the Texas Association of School Administrators and was named Region XI Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Rue is also a dedicated community leader, having served as President of the Northwest Communities Partnership and as a director of the 35W Coalition.

Cumulatively, Dr. Rue has dedicated 37 years to improving the quality of American

public education. She began her impressive career as a 6th grade teacher, then served as Executive Director of Elementary Education at Katy ISD, and as Superintendent of Schools of Tulosso-Midway ISD before assuming her position as superintendent of schools for NISD. I salute Dr. Rue for her exemplary career and extend best wishes upon her retirement and future endeavors. It is my privilege to represent Northwest ISD in the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Rue's positive impact and dedicated service to Northwest ISD will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING YAZOO CITY ALUMNAE  
CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA  
THETA SORORITY, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter was granted their 30th chartering in the state of Mississippi on February 2, 1997. Francine Wallace and Edwina Fox, in 1995, had the idea to create a chapter in Yazoo and placed an article in the local newspaper. Other Delta's in the area quickly responded, desiring to continue the mission to which they had pledged themselves in their college years and together they worked with the state leadership, the southern Region Manager and the national Headquarters to achieve this objective. Not being swayed, it took several attempts to acquire the approvals to establish the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. The Yazoo City Deltas traveled to the State Cluster to share their desire to focus on the high rate of teenage pregnancies in Yazoo County as it was the highest rate in the state of Mississippi. Relating their dedication to fighting this devastating trend, the Southern Region Manager, on their second attempt approved the chartering of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. On February 2, 1997 at the St. Stephen United Methodist Church 12 members, Mary Ann Brewer, Teresa Bonner, Diane Delaware, Zellee Delaware, Sandra Younger, Tamara Dodd, Edwina Gordon-Fox, Marilyn Hathorne, Gloria Elayne Owens, Francine Wallace, the late Juanita Scott-Washington and Mary Joshua Young stood and committed to carry out the public service mission of their beloved sisterhood throughout Yazoo County. Thus, this was the beginning of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

IN HONOR OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF PAYSON CONCRETE AND MATERIALS

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a business from my district, Payson Concrete and Materials, Incorporated.

Payson Concrete and Materials recently celebrated their 51st anniversary in business. George Randall opened the business in 1965. His brothers, Robert and Fred, joined him soon after and the family has been serving the communities of Payson, Pine and Tonto Basin ever since. Providers of concrete, asphalt and road paving services to eastern Arizona, the Randalls now employ 35 people, many of whom have been with the company for over 20 years. Their loyalty shows a commitment to excellence in every aspect of their company, from customer to employee. The Randall Brothers are also very active and generous in their community. Every year, they make major contributions to the local community. Robert Randall has also invested in the future of Pine. Mr. Randall, along with other local businessmen, has invested his own time and money into drilling a well with the capability of providing the citizens of Pine with a fresh source of water.

Payson Concrete and Materials is the type of family-owned and operated business that is all too rare in this day and age. It models the kind of community involvement that should be commonplace in our country. On behalf of the people of Arizona and the United States, we thank them for all that they do.

AMERICA'S HEALTH MEASURES  
PROTECTION ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to protect the health regulations of the United States, and thereby the health of Americans, from the pernicious use of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism that exists in free trade agreements like NAFTA and the TPP.

Abuses of the ISDS provision have already had harmful effects on the health of our Canadian neighbors, as an ISDS lawsuit essentially forced the Canadian government to abandon its ban of the gasoline additive MMT, a known human neurotoxin.

My legislation, which amends the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountable Act of 2015, known as the TPA, makes it explicitly clear that protecting the health of Americans is a paramount trade negotiating objective of the United States. As it stands today, the TPA falls short of this goal.

During negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership, several nations demanded the ability to dismiss ISDS claims made against their tobacco control measures. This insistence was a tacit acknowledgment that companies use ISDS lawsuits to challenge reasonable state health regulations.

But why only single out tobacco control measures? What about safeguards for other public health measures like lower drug prices under Medicare, food safety regulations, clean air and water regulations, or the Toxic Substances Control Act recently passed by Congress? The fact that a last minute "tobacco carve-out" was inserted into the TPP is proof that the trade negotiating objectives currently in TPA are not explicit enough to protect the health of Americans.

The purpose of my legislation is to ensure that all health regulations in the United States are protected from unscrupulous abuses of trade arbitration mechanisms that fall outside of the United States justice system. My legislation instructs the United States Trade Representative to explicitly ensure that no trade agreement gives an investor group the power to hold the health of Americans hostage for monetary gain.

Trade is important to our society, but it should not come at the expense of the health of Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.  
VALERIE BENDER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 9, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Valerie Bender. Mrs. Bender passed away on April 29, 2016, at the age of 60 as she valiantly battled breast cancer for seven years. Known by all who met her as a selfless individual, Mrs. Bender led a prolific career as a reporter and was loved deeply by friends and family.

Mrs. Bender began her journalism career as a reporter in Florida. After having moved to Virginia and working there for a short time, her merits earned her the esteemed role of managing editor at the Wilmington News Journal. Mrs. Bender went on to work at the Fresno Bee where she served for 20 years. While at the Fresno Bee, she held a variety of different positions that included serving as Features Editor, Assistant Managing Director, Director of Community Publications, and Vice President of Custom Publications. In February 2014 Mrs. Bender was named President and Publisher of the Merced Sun-Star, a role that was certainly well earned and deserved.

Among her many activities and passions, Mrs. Bender was an advocate for breast cancer awareness and was deeply passionate about art. She made it a point to promote mammogram examinations among the young women that she met and went on to become part of Sistah's Just Surviving, a support group for cancer survivors. Mrs. Bender was viewed as a role model by members of the group because of her genuine and loving persona. Furthermore, Mrs. Bender was on the board of trustees at the Fresno Art Museum and showed constant support for young up-and-coming artists in the community. She was able to take her passion for art and effortlessly apply it to her career. During her time at the Fresno Bee, she became so well known for her "eye-popping" art designs that she was called away by other McClatchy newspapers for assistance in making their papers more appealing for up to several weeks at a time.